



Examples of Critical Observation Networks

- Department of Commerce, National Weather Service, Cooperative Observer (COOP) Program Hydrometeorological Network
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Climate Analysis (SCAN) and Snowpack Telemetry (SNOTEL) networks
- U.S. Forest Service, Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) Network
- U.S. Geological Survey, Streamgaging and Groundwater Network
- Other regional observation networks

2.2 The President should appropriately direct and Congress, as necessary, should authorize and fund continuation of the U.S. Drought Monitor and exploration of opportunities for its improvement and expansion.

2.3 The President should appropriately direct and Congress, as necessary, should authorize and fund continuation of Drought Predictions/Outlooks and development of techniques to improve their accuracy and frequency.

2.4 The President should appropriately direct and Congress, as necessary, should authorize and fund a comprehensive information gateway (possibly through expansion of the National Drought Mitigation Center's website or other similar approaches) to provide users with free and open access to observational network data and drought monitoring, prediction, impact, assessment, preparedness, and mitigation measures. Links among federal and nonfederal sources are critical.

2.5 The President should direct the appropriate federal agencies to develop an effective drought information delivery system such as the Unified Climate Access Network (UCAN) to communicate drought conditions and impacts to decision makers at the federal,

regional, state, tribal, and local levels and to the private sector and general public. The systems should include near real-time data, information and products developed at each of these levels and integrated in an appropriate fashion to accurately reflect regional and state differences in drought conditions. The box below indicates some of the critical participants in such a delivery system.

Selected Critical Participants in an Effective Drought Information Delivery System

- Climate Prediction Center
- National Climatic Data Center
- Regional Climate Centers
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Geological Survey
- National Drought Mitigation Center
- State Climatologists
- Other regional climate centers
- Other water systems
- International partners

2.6 The President should direct appropriate federal agencies to expand technology transfer of water conservation strategies and innovative water supply techniques as part of drought preparedness programs.

2.7 The President should direct and Congress should continue to adequately fund existing and future drought-related research. Existing competitive research grant programs should give high priority to drought. Areas of research should include topics that will either conserve water or make more water available for needs during drought. Examples include alternative methods such as brush control, cloud seeding, canal lining, and desalination.

2.8 The President should direct and Congress should fund completion of the soil survey on all lands, with special and immediate emphasis on tribal lands.